

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN JACK WELLS**, on February 6, 2001
at 8:05 A.M., in Room 317-B Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jack Wells, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Bob Davies, Chairman (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: David Brown, Legislative Branch
Cyndie Lockett, Committee Secretary
Amy Sassano, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted:
Executive Action: Consumer Counsel; Legislative
Branch

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON CONSUMER COUNSEL

Vice-Chairman Wells called the committee to order.

Mr. Brown explained the historical sheets **EXHIBIT(jgh30a03)**, **EXHIBIT(jgh30a04)**, **EXHIBIT(jgh30a05)** provided to the subcommittee with background on the Consumer Counsel.

Motion: REP LINDEEN moved the base level of funding of \$1,105,434 for 2002 and \$1,107,449 for 2003 plus statewide present law adjustments. The additional Governor Martz vacancy savings included in the present law DP 699, the rent reductions in present law DP 698, and general liability premium reduction in present law DP 697, where applicable.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Sen. Stapleton asked the cause of the dramatic 6-7 percent increase when he reviewed the historical sheet **EXHIBIT(jgh30a01)**. **Mr. Brown** answered they added the \$100,000 contingency in each year.

Sen. Stapleton asked if this contingency has always been in the budget. **Mr. Brown** indicated the contingency has always been there, but has not always been added in.

Robert "Bob" Nelson, Consumer Counsel added the contingency shows up as a base ledger amount in each biennium because if it didn't it would show as an increase.

Mr. Brown pointed out to the committee this is a State Special Revenue Account not a General Fund. It will not effect the end balance of the General Fund.

Motion: SEN. McCARTHY moved to approve DP 1 as requested.

Rep. Lindeen asked beside the State Special Revenue account how this agency gets revenue. **Mr. Brown** indicated their funding comes from a constitutionally earmarked tax levied against the regulated industries.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a Proxy for Rep. Davies.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Sen. Wells asked **Mr. Brown** where the proposed adjustments to Legislative Services Division budget **EXHIBIT(jgh30a02)** would fit into the DP's. **Mr. Brown** answered they would be added in as new proposals if the subcommittee so desires. **Sen. McCarthy** asked where they are going to be added. **Mr. Brown** stated they would go onto page A-7 under New Proposals.

Sen. Wells directed the subcommittee to review the base budget for the legislative branch.

Sen. McCarthy asked about the current cost for the TV hook-up system around the capital. **Mrs. Menzies** answered \$4000.00.

Motion: **REP. BRUEGGEMAN** moved the base level plus statewide present law adjustments. The additional Governor Martz vacancy savings included in the present law DP 699, the rent reductions in present law DP 698, and general liability premium reduction in present law DP 697, where applicable.

Mrs. Sassano commented there was no current vacancy savings in this budget.

Rep. Brueggeman indicated he would keep the motion as is.

Rep. Lindeen asked **Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst** to explain what effect Vacancy Savings would have on the Legislative Branch. **Mr. Schenck** indicated it makes an even smaller base, and by nature, they do not incur the level of vacancy savings of other agencies. He stated if HB 13 does not pass it will cause concerns. **Mrs. Menzies** pointed out people are working overtime to get the work done. If there are vacancies, they will have to leave them open until the compensatory time is paid off.

Rep. Brueggeman indicated he does not want to impose rules on other agencies that cannot be imposed on the legislative branch.

Motion/Vote: **REP. LINDEEN** made a substitute motion to approve Vacancy Savings at 2 percent. **The motion failed 4 to 2 with REP. LINDEEN and SEN. MCCARTHY voting aye and a nay Proxy for Rep. Davies.**

Sen. McCarthy wanted to add **Sen. Beck's** new proposals. **Mr. Brown** indicated the corresponding numbers for those proposals are DP 2106 and DP 2107.

Motion: REP. BRUEGGEMAN moved do not pass DP 2006.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: SEN. McCARTHY moved do not pass DP 2008.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a aye Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: SEN. McCARTHY moved do pass DP 2104.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion failed 4 to 2 with REP. LINDEEN and SEN. McCARTHY voting aye and a no Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: REP. LINDEEN moved do pass DP 2105.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion failed 4 to 2 with REP. LINDEEN and SEN. McCARTHY voting aye and a no Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: SEN. McCARTHY moved do pass DP 2106.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion failed 4 to 2 with REP. LINDEEN and SEN. McCARTHY voting aye and a no Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: SEN. McCARTHY moved do pass DP 2107.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion failed 5 to 1 with SEN. McCARTHY voting aye and a no Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: REP. LINDEEN moved do pass DP 2703.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion failed 5 to 1 with REP. LINDEEN voting aye and a no Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: REP. LINDEEN moved do not pass DP 2803.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a aye Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: SEN. STAPLETON moved do pass DP 2001, DP 2002, DP 2003, AND DP 2004.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: REP. BRUEGGEMAN moved do pass DP 2101, DP 2102 as a one time only, and DP 2103.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a aye Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: REP. LINDEEN moved do pass DP 2701 and DP 2702.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a aye Proxy for Rep. Davies.

Motion: REP. LINDEEN moved do pass DP 2801 and DP 2802.

Vote: The question was called for and the motion carried unanimously with a Proxy for Rep. Davies.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:30 A.M.

REP. BOB DAVIES, Chairman

CYNDIE LOCKETT, Secretary

BD/CL

EXHIBIT (jgh30aad)